

Please add newly submitted claims 9-18 as follows:

9. The method according to claim 6 wherein the creA gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.
10. The method according to claim 6 wherein the creA gene has been deleted.
11. The method according to claim 6 wherein the koji mold is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).
12. The method according to claim 6 wherein the areA gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.
13. The method according to claim 6 including the step of isolating the enzymes in the form of a concentrate.
14. The method according to claim 7 wherein the creA gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.
15. The method according to claim 7 wherein the creA gene has been deleted.
16. The method according to claim 7 wherein the koji mold *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).
17. The method according to claim 7 wherein the areA gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.
18. A method for preparing a protein hydrolysate comprising the steps of hydrolyzing a proteinaceous material with a koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the creA gene has been mutated such that the gene produced thereof is essentially non-functional.

#### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the above-identified patent application. Pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment Claims 4 and 7-10 have been amended and newly submitted Claims 9-18 have been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new matter. Further, Applicants note that the Preliminary Amendment is not being made for purposes of narrowing the claims and/or patentability but, merely to comport the claims to U.S. practice and/or to add additional claims. Applicants do not intend to disclaim any subject matter in view of the amendments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made.”**